

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

East Germany

SUBJECT

Newspaper Censoring Procedures

PAGE  
NUMBERDATE OF  
INFO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 3 February 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

25X1

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. On 10 September 1954, a special method of handling so-called Dienstpost (mail) was introduced. This method is now compulsory for all VEB's; it is handled on a basis similar to Postamt (Post Office). This method of handling official mail is now compulsory for all VEB's. Stamps which can be used for this purpose only and which must be strictly accounted for. Monthly requirements for stamps are sent to VEB employees on presentation of a postamt (postal identification form) which is countersigned by the VEB.
- b. All outgoing mail is placed in mail boxes (one for registered, one for ordinary mail) at the VEB.
- c. Envelopes used by VEB's are now either stamped or printed. Such envelopes are not to be used in correspondence going to Western Germany or to West Berlin.
- Dienstpost is not censored, thereby cutting down personnel time and allowing more such time for increasing censorship of private mail.

2. Dienstpost is handled in two ways: Dienstpost is done by special postal sections which are established at Dresden A, Erfurt, Leipzig N18, Chemnitz and Berlin NW 4 (for parcels) and Berlin NW 8 (for letters). Berlin mail is censored either at Dresden or at the above named postal sections in Berlin. Berlin mail also includes mail from the so-called Sperrgebiet (closed zone), which extends around Berlin as far out as the third or fourth railway stop. All mail to and from this area has to pass through Berlin. As a rule, all parcels addressed to Berlin (East Berlin included) and to places outside East Germany are opened. To which extent the letters are censored was not known with any accuracy. However, letters traveling inside East Germany are not subject to general censorship. Czechoslovakian and Balkan mail is censored in Dresden; Polish and Soviet mail in Berlin. Parcels from East Germany to West Germany or to West Berlin may be sent without presentation of an Ausweis. There is no need to make a declaration of the contents, but it must be stated that the parcel in question is being sent as a gift. There are certain limits regarding weight and amount of items sent. On the other hand, when sending parcels from East Berlin, it is necessary to present an Ausweis; the Ausweis

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	NAVY	FBI							

25X1

SECRET

-2-

25X1

number is then noted on the parcel form.

b. Special censorship is handled as follows: When the SSD for any reason wants to censor someone's mail, an SSD agent comes directly to the postmaster of the post office in question (who as a rule is a reliable SSD member) and requests that the mail concerned be put aside. The mail is usually kept by the postmaster until the SSD man comes to collect it. He takes the mail away to be censored; such mail might be only partly returned for further delivery.

25X1

SECRET

-2-